



Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 40

March, 1987

NUMBER 2



A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL WHOLENESS IN A BROKEN WORLD

"Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us! Sustain us in our commitment to renew ourselves spiritually, through disciplined prayer and study of the scriptures. Open our minds, hearts and eyes to understand, feel and see the personal and corporate brokenness of our world - broken bodies, spirits, and relationships.

Strengthen our faith to live and act in partnership with You, through Jesus Christ to bring justice, wholeness and peace to the world. Amen."

--by Lucinda J. Gordon, member of Faith United Church of Christ, Milwaukee, WI...
Excerpted from "With Heart-With Mind", the Family Thank Offering booklet.

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Southeast Conference will be held at Agnes Scott College, in Decatur, Georgia, on Thursday, June 11th through Saturday, June 13th. This year's theme is "THANKFUL FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP", based on the readings from Philippians 1:5.

Planned as both a business meeting and a celebration, it will begin Thursday at 7:15 p.m., and end at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. Moderator, Rev. James L. Myers.

Keynote Speaker is The Rev. Dr. Charles Shelby Rookes, Executive Vice President for the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. This Board plans and conducts the homeland mission in evangelism, church extension and education; health and welfare; higher education, publication, and race relations.

There will be workshops for learning new skills to take back to our local churches.... there will be singing.....sharing.....and praising God. Plans include a Conference Choir.....and we hope that many choir members from all of our churches will be here!

ALL PASTORS AND CHURCHES WILL BE RECEIVING REGISTRATION FORMS SOON!

WATCH FOR THEM!

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW!

NEWS & NOTES

MINISTERS/WIVES CONVOCATION

LEARNING FAIR

The Southeast Conference is sponsoring a LEARNING FAIR for all those involved in your church education program. This will be held at Central Congregational Church in Atlanta, and conducted by Brethren House, headquartered in St. Petersburg, Florida.

We have planned this for the beginning of the church school year. It will be a major opportunity for teachers of all age groups to gather a wealth of resources to use with your church school curriculum.

In case you are not familiar with Brethren House, a good introduction to their work is a filmstrip available at the Conference office entitled: "Learning Environments in the Church." It is a lot more exciting than the title, and will be a help for church school teachers to see.

A registration form with more information will be sent to you during the summer. **SAVE THE DATE NOW!**

September 19, 1987 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This Fair will help your class have a good start, and give you material to keep you going throughout the year.

-From John Terry, Pastor, Button-Gwinnett-

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WOMEN

SOUTHERN REGIONAL MEETING-----

October 9 - 11, 1987, Monteagle, TN.

Purpose: HEART TO HEART: CREATING ANEW.

- A new you through spiritual growth
- A new community of love and caring
- A new world of peace and justice.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Rev. Floyd Carmack, Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ, says they have a Gestetner mimeograph machine - in good working condition - plus a number of stencils which will be given to any church needing a mimeograph - if they will arrange to come pick it up! You may call Trinity's office for more information: (404) 478-1563.

From: Wayde J. Washburn, Chair, Clergy/Spouse Retreat Planning Committee.

The 1987 Retreat at Blowing Rock, N.C., will be held from Monday - Thursday, May 18 - 21, 1987. Registration will begin at 3:00 p.m., Monday, May 18. The Retreat concludes at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, May 21.

The cost will be \$60.00 per person, including housing, meals and registration.

The Theme is "FAMILIAL PEOPLE" - looking at the changing roles of clergy and clergy families.

The Leaders are: Dr. Liston Mills, Professor of Pastoral Care at Vanderbilt Divinity School; Rev. Joyce Myers, "Our Own" Regional Staff Person from the Office for Church Life and Leadership.

SAVE THE DATES: MAKE PLANS NOW!

CURT'S NUGGETS

"Living as you do today, would there be enough evidence to convict you of being a Christian?"

Curt Schumacher, Pleasant Hill, TN.

FROM NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES NEWS-

Church World Service has received \$5.5 mil. in corn, sorghum seed for farmers in the southeast. CSX Transportation is giving free transport on their rail system for the entire seed shipment. It will take 46 railcars to transport the 103,715 50-pound bags of corn seed, 4,563 50-pound bags of grain sorghum seed, and 2,092 50-pound bags of forage sorghum seed from the Midwest to 23 distribution points in eight Southeastern states.

"Seed is the beginning of a farmer's future" said Tom Trantham, a Pelzer, S.C., dairy farmer, who with Marian Hesse of Atlanta, is co-coordinator of CWS Drought Response in the Southeast. "Without seed, there is no future. At this time, there are many farmers in our area who are definitely at the point of not being able to afford to buy seed."

CONFERENCE CORNER

POSSIBLE NEW MISSION STATEMENT

As a member of the Executive Committee (along with Libby Scott), from this Conference, I have just returned from a very heavy meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, March 10 - 15th. Along with all the other items of business that Executive Council usually has to deal with, two important new decisions were made.

First, the new Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society was approved to be recommended to General Synod. This calls for a new instrumentality with a budget of \$350,000.00 for 1988.

The second big decision was to recommend the "U.C.C. Headquarters be moved from New York by 1991, or as soon thereafter as possible." Many cities will be studied, with Cleveland and Chicago high on many lists. The recommendation to go to St. Louis was rejected.

The reports on plans for General Synod this year sound good, with the U.C.C. churches in the Cleveland area planning to give the members of our churches a royal welcome. As members of this church, we ought to hold the delegates and leaders of the church in our prayers. Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead all of us as individuals and all of our churches to greater service for Jesus Christ.

A Constitution and By-Laws Revision Committee is at work under the Chairmanship of Rev. John Schaeffer of Belvidere, TENN. If any individual or church has a suggestion for this committee to consider, please write to the committee as follows:

The Rev. John F. Schaeffer
Rte. 4, Box 291 C
Winchester, Tennessee 37398

Emmett O. Floyd

PASTOR'S INSTALLATION

A service of worship and celebration will be held on Sunday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the installation of The Rev. Mr. James M. Norris as pastor of the United Church of Huntsville, Alabama. Our warmest wishes are extended to Rev. Norris and to all of the members of Huntsville United Church. Congratulations, and my God bless you in your continued service of ministry.

In June, General Synod 16 will consider the following mission statement, which emerged from the UCC Conference on Mission held in Houston last January, as a formal mission statement for the whole United Church of Christ.

"As people of the United Church of Christ, affirming our Statement of Faith, we seek within the Church Universal to participate in God's Mission and to follow the way of the crucified and risen Christ.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called and commit ourselves. . .

- To praise God, confess our sin, and joyfully accept God's forgiveness;
- To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our suffering world;
- To embody God's love for all people;
- To hear and give voice to Creation's cry for justice and peace;
- To name and confront the powers of evil within and among us;
- To repent our silence and complicity with the forces of chaos and death;
- To preach and teach with the power of the Living Word;
- To join oppressed and troubled people in the struggle for liberation;
- To work for justice, healing and wholeness of life;
- To embrace the unity of Christ's Church;
- To discern and celebrate the present and coming reign of God."

ROBBINS PARISH THRIFT SHOP REPORT

In 1986, 8 burned-out families were given clothing, blankets, etc.. All blankets received by the Thrift Shop are donated to fire victims. The Thrift Shop also helped 14 other needy families. There were 22 families, and a total of 75 people who received assistance.

The Thrift Shop needs more clothing and household items, bedding, etc., to sell. Any support from our other churches in the Conference will be greatly appreciated.

A WORD FROM THE WORLD BOARD

As the leaves of our South begin to grow and spread, gentling the harsh outlines of winter, I am reminded of Paul Gregory's hymn for One Great Hour of Sharing 1987.

"We hear God's call to service, the
cry of neighbors need.

We follow Love Incarnate - the word
spelled out in deed.

Make us life's tree of blessing
to make all peoples whole,

Our gifts the 'leaves of healing' for
earth's war-wasted soul!"

"To make all peoples whole" may seem a musical excess by a song writer in search of a rhyme for "soul", but as Christians, can we seek a lesser goal? Every time we gather, it is under the banner of wholeness. "That they may all be one." March 29, the designated time of gathering for our O.G.H.S. offering, is a day when we truly celebrate the world-wide reach of our faith.

The Southeast Friends of the World Board hope you have found our bulletin insert series helpful in preparation for O.G.H.S.. I would appreciate your comments. Should we plan to do this again next year?

We now have a videotape of the U.C.B.W.M. 1986 meeting in Raleigh, N.C.. May we come to your church and share this glimpse of our work with you? If you will contact me personally, or through the Conference office - I will be pleased to schedule a speaker for you.

(continued next column)

Comings and goings: visitors to our Conference reach around the world in both directions this spring. March 14 - 19, we were visited by six bright, energetic, and above all, interested college students from Germany. They come from one of our covenant partner churches, Evangelical Church of the Union. They toured the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, visited in some of our churches, and sampled grits fearlessly.

May 4 - 18, we will host Rev. Kim Sang Keun from South Korea. Mr. Kim comes to us from a very active ministry in South Korea. If your church would like to invite Mr. Kim to speak and share with you, please be in touch with me soon.

Each visitor enriches the life of our Conference. So, also, do your offerings and prayers.

Shalom in Christ,

Rev. Carol Jean Delcher
Southeast Conference Coordinator
United Church Board for World Ministries

* * * * *

ATLANTA UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
needs fill-dirt for use on their building site. Anyone who can donate this, please call Rev. Marvin Morgan at 404/753-3016. Your call and help will be greatly appreciated!

* * * * *

**SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

P. O. BOX 29883

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30359

Nonprofit Organization

U. S. Postage

PAID

Atlanta, Georgia

Permit No. 1546